

**LLEAD**  
**LATINO LEADERS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF ADVOCACY**  
**& DEVELOPMENT**

**P.O. Box 80231, Lansing, MI 48908**

The Honorable Peter Pettalia  
State Representative  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Pettalia,

This letter is regarding Senate Bill 501, which has been referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and its negative effects on nonresident drivers. Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy & Development is a statewide Latino organization that is currently in the process of creating Chapters that will advocate for Latinos on a local, state and national level. We are concerned about Latino nonresidents and how this bill will affect them with the imposition of additional requirements that the international treaties do not contain. The bill says that a nonresident could only use another country's driver's license to drive in Michigan if the driver possesses a valid passport, a valid visa, or other valid documents to verify his or her legal presence in Michigan.

The results of this change would be that Michigan police officers would have to become experts in the dozens of documents issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Patrol, the Immigration Courts, and the U.S. Department of State. Police officers would need to make a determination when stopping a driver whether the documentation was validly issued, and whether the documents impart a certain status that the state considers sufficient to prove "legal presence." Foreign nationals traveling through Michigan – whether they are here as tourists, here on business working for a multi-national company, or for any other reason – would find themselves at the mercy of whatever training or verification system that the state, county, or local municipalities have decided to use to satisfy this new requirement.

Michigan is bound by international treaties signed by the U.S. that permit drivers from other countries to operate motor vehicles in the state. According to the treaties, a person who has a license issued in one signatory country may use that license to drive in the other signatory countries. As a result, citizens of certain countries can drive legally in Michigan (or any other U.S. state) if they possess their license that was issued in their home country. The Michigan Secretary of State issues a list of these signatory countries.

We ask that you to please correct the language in Senate Bill 501 so that it coincides with the international treaties mentioned above.

Thank You,



Al Flores  
President  
LLEAD State Board of Directors